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REMODELING—This is the new home of the Friendly Furniture Co., which is remodeling this store at 2067 Torrance Blvd. for its grand opening in the next few weeks. While finishing touches are made, store will be open to public.

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Furniture Store Ready for Formal Opening Soon

Friendly Furniture, with three stores in Los Angeles and Hawthorne, is now completing remodeling of the old Sav-on Shoe Store building at 2067 Torrance Blvd., and will formally open this new store, their fourth, in the next few weeks.
While finishing touches are still going on at the new store, the management has announced that their doors are now open to the public and all of Torrance is invited to drop in and get acquainted and see the latest in modern store decoration and arrangement.

The Friendly Furniture Stores have been in business in the Los Angeles area for over 14 years, and are well known to many Torrance residents who have patronized their nearby Hawthorne store. In fact, it was the ever increasing number of customers visiting Hawthorne from Torrance that prompted the firm to open this new, more conveniently located store in the heart of Torrance.

Manager of the new store is Cecil Finkler who has been an official of the firm for the past 10 years. Friendly will continue its liberal credit policy that has made it so successful, and will feature complete room outfits as well as rugs, carpets, bedding, TV and all major appliances.

Insurance Agent Dies

A 37-year-old insurance agent died on the floor of the bathroom Monday, police reported.
Zeiba Carl Rentro, of 2421 Nearcliff St., was pronounced dead at Harbor Hospital, after his wife Joan, found him lying on the floor. She said that during the preceding evening, they had entertained a guest, and that her husband did not feel well during the night.

Suspect Eyed as Kidnaper

Norman Francis Gagnon, 30, arrested in Torrance Saturday, faces a possible death penalty following his arraignment on five felony charges yesterday in Los Angeles.

The defendant is charged with two counts of kidnaping with assault to commit murder, two counts of rape, and one count of grand theft auto.

Sheriff's detectives said that Norman F. Gagnon, 30, who listed his address 739 Border Ave., Torrance, was identified by the victims of the kidnaping.

Homicide officers are still investigating the former Air Force sergeant as a suspect in the slaying of two El Segundo policemen nearly a year ago.

Arrested Here
Gagnon was arrested by Torrance officers Robert Jones and Ron Nicolai in the 1300 block on Cravens Ave., after they noticed his car bore the license number of a vehicle stolen in Hawthorne.
Sheriff's detectives who have been questioning the suspect since Saturday, said that Charles H. May of Lawndale, and Theresa Rochon, of Los Angeles, identified Gagnon as the man who kidnaped them outside a Lawndale bar on July 5.

The couple reported they were forced to drive to Crystal Lake, where the abductor attacked Mrs. Rochon, a divorcee, and pistol-whipped May into unconsciousness. May was released from the hospital only last Sunday.

Abandons Car
The suspect drove May's car to downtown Los Angeles where he abandoned it.

When Torrance officers arrested Gagnon, they found a foreign-made automatic on the seat of the car.
Police said there is a strong resemblance between Gagnon and the killer of the two El Segundo officers who were shot to death by a lone gunman whom they stopped for a traffic citation.

The gunman had earlier attacked a girl in a "lovers lane," and had stolen her escort's auto. Gagnon refused to admit anything, officers said.
They will seek a complaint of kidnaping, rape, robbery and auto theft.

Stiffer Requirements Sought for Exams

Stiffer requirements for fire engineers and captains were recommended to the City Council Tuesday in line with new promotional examinations requested by Fire Chief J. J. Benner. He asked that for the engineer's position, applicants must have two years experience in Torrance. Present requirements just ask for two years experience with a city fire department. Candidates for captain will have to have two years service as an engineer, if the change is approved. Presently, firemen with three years service can take the test.

SEEKS PAWNSHOP

Application to operate a pawnshop in Torrance was received by the City Council from Nat E. Ellis of San Pedro.

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